



FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

May 16, 2002

FLORIDA

SPRING: Potato production to be harvested during the spring is forecast at 7,179,000 hundredweight, down almost three percent from the April forecast, and down nearly ten percent from a year ago. Hastings producers hope to dig 18,700 acres this spring compared with 18,000 in 2001. The 2002 yield for Hastings is expected to average 280 hundredweight per acre, down 10 hundredweight from the April estimate and down 50 hundredweight or 15 percent from the 330 hundredweight per acre averaged last year. Producers in other areas expect to dig 1,943,000 hundredweight from 6,700 acres, equal to the April estimates, but down 87,000 hundredweight or four percent from the 2,030,000 hundredweight dug in 2001. Digging in the Hastings area started about mid-April with mostly clear weather allowing harvesting to progress without rain delays. Above normal temperatures lowered the quality of the crop not yet dug in late April and the first half of May. Low stocks in other states increased demand for the Hastings crop with growers expecting to finish earlier than usual.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring potato production in 2002 is forecast at 21.8 million cwt, up 1 percent from the April 1 forecast but down

less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 77,700 acres, 1 percent above the April estimate and up 2 percent from a year ago. The average yield is forecast at 280 cwt per acre, down 2 cwt from the April 1 forecast and 6 cwt below last year. Since April 1, California acreage and yield have been adjusted upward, while yield potential diminished in the Hastings area of Florida and in Texas.

Production in North Carolina is forecast at 3.41 million cwt, unchanged from last month but 3 percent below last year. Growing conditions during April were good but earlier frost and rain damage will delay harvest. The Texas production forecast, at 1.36 million cwt, is 11 percent below the April 1 forecast as the effects of earlier frost damage have become apparent. If realized, this production will be 34 percent below last year. Reduced yields and lower harvested acreage combined for the large decrease. California's spring production, at 7.70 million cwt, is 7 percent above last month's forecast and 27 percent greater than a year ago. Higher yields combined with a 6 percent increase in acreage for harvest, caused the rise in production. Spring potato production in Arizona is forecast at 2.11 million cwt, unchanged from last month but 5 percent less than a year ago. Earlier frost damage delayed the crop. Harvest should begin in May and continue into July.

POTATOES

| Seasonal group and State | Area | | | | Yield per acre | | Production | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|------|------------|--------|--------|
| | Planted | | Harvested | | | | | | |
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2001 | 2002 | 2001 | 2002 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
| | 1,000 Acres | | | | Cwt | | 1,000 cwt | | |
| Spring | | | | | | | | | |
| Arizona | 8.2 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 7.8 | 270 | 270 | 2,520 | 2,214 | 2,106 |
| California | 15.5 | 19.0 | 15.5 | 19.0 | 390 | 405 | 7,426 | 6,045 | 7,695 |
| Florida | 25.6 | 26.0 | 25.0 | 25.4 | 319 | 283 | 6,343 | 7,970 | 7,179 |
| Hastings | 18.5 | 19.2 | 18.0 | 18.7 | 330 | 280 | 4,868 | 5,940 | 5,236 |
| Other | 7.1 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 290 | 290 | 1,475 | 2,030 | 1,943 |
| North Carolina | 19.5 | 18.0 | 18.5 | 17.5 | 190 | 195 | 3,400 | 3,515 | 3,413 |
| Texas | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.0 | 8.0 | 230 | 170 | 2,232 | 2,070 | 1,360 |
| Total | 78.3 | 80.3 | 76.2 | 77.7 | 286 | 280 | 21,921 | 21,814 | 21,753 |

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 17 PERCENT

May 1, 2002 potato stocks totaled 91.1 million cwt, down 17 percent from 2001 but 5 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage account for 23 percent of the fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1, at 303 million cwt, is down 13 percent from the 2000 crop and 9 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest disappearance since 1992. April disappearance of 37.8 million cwt is down 15 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below 2000. Shrink and loss to this point in the season is 24.4 million cwt, down 32 percent from last year and 17 percent below two years ago.

Processing of 2001 crop potatoes totaled 148 million cwt to May 1, down 13 percent from the 2000 crop and 11 percent below two years ago. In April, processors used 16.5 million cwt of potatoes, 12 percent below a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 70.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2002, down 19 percent from last year but 4 percent above 2000. Idaho's potato stocks are down 14 percent from a year ago, while Washington is down 16 percent and Oregon is off 35 percent. Colorado's stocks are down 31 percent and Montana's fell 7 percent short of a year ago. California's potato holdings are down 86 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 17.1 million cwt of potato stocks this May 1, down 2 percent from 2001 but 22 percent above 2000. North Dakota's stocks are up 12 percent and Wisconsin's holdings are 21 percent above this date last year. Michigan's potato stocks are down 43 percent from last year and Minnesota's are off 26 percent from a year ago. Combined Nebraska and Ohio stocks are 12 percent below a year ago.

Eastern States stored 3.2 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 2002, down 25 percent from a year ago and 31 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings are down 25 percent from last year, New York and Pennsylvania stocks are combined for a 31 percent decline from a year ago.

| POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 1998-2001 ^{1/} | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
| State | Crop year | To Dec 1 | To Jan 1 | To Feb 1 | To Mar 1 | To Apr 1 | To May 1 | To Jun 1 | Entire season |
| 1,000 cwt | | | | | | | | | |
| Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon | 1998 | 27,510 | 34,700 | 42,670 | 51,210 | 60,040 | 68,550 | 76,410 | 92,860 |
| | 1999 | 27,970 | 34,490 | 40,790 | 49,220 | 57,820 | 66,080 | 74,110 | 88,210 |
| | 2000 | 29,290 | 35,720 | 43,470 | 50,580 | 58,910 | 66,760 | 75,270 | 93,460 |
| | 2001 | 20,940 | 27,330 | 33,620 | 40,860 | 47,710 | 54,150 | | |
| Maine ^{2/} | 1998 | 1,430 | 1,935 | 2,530 | 2,985 | 3,595 | 4,180 | 4,705 | 5,945 |
| | 1999 | 1,270 | 1,700 | 2,385 | 3,070 | 3,765 | 4,560 | 5,150 | 6,670 |
| | 2000 | 1,845 | 2,475 | 3,105 | 3,695 | 4,225 | 4,760 | 5,340 | 7,015 |
| | 2001 | 1,935 | 2,420 | 3,080 | 3,665 | 4,250 | 4,725 | | |
| Washington and Other areas, Oregon | 1998 | 33,630 | 38,890 | 45,650 | 53,290 | 60,930 | 67,180 | 74,190 | 83,730 |
| | 1999 | 33,320 | 39,620 | 45,500 | 53,350 | 61,080 | 67,230 | 74,840 | 83,210 |
| | 2000 | 34,770 | 40,970 | 47,720 | 55,250 | 62,860 | 69,850 | 78,010 | 91,130 |
| | 2001 | 29,270 | 35,310 | 40,540 | 47,910 | 54,850 | 61,310 | | |
| Other States ^{3/} | 1998 | 11,570 | 14,465 | 18,030 | 20,850 | 24,850 | 28,190 | 31,365 | 39,865 |
| | 1999 | 12,455 | 15,035 | 17,950 | 20,855 | 24,305 | 27,220 | 30,410 | 35,940 |
| | 2000 | 12,665 | 16,215 | 18,975 | 22,095 | 25,410 | 28,695 | 31,765 | 39,020 |
| | 2001 | 12,715 | 15,905 | 18,765 | 21,915 | 24,395 | 27,520 | | |
| Total | 1998 | 74,140 | 89,990 | 108,880 | 128,335 | 149,415 | 168,100 | 186,670 | 222,400 |
| | 1999 | 75,015 | 90,845 | 106,625 | 126,495 | 146,970 | 165,090 | 184,510 | 214,030 |
| | 2000 | 78,570 | 95,380 | 113,270 | 131,620 | 151,405 | 170,065 | 190,385 | 230,625 |
| | 2001 | 64,860 | 80,965 | 96,005 | 114,350 | 131,205 | 147,705 | | |

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{3/} MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2000 and 2001. MI, MN, ND, and WI IN 1998 and 1999.

| FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on May 1, 2001 and 2002 ^{1/} | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| State | Crop of 2000 | | | Crop of 2001 | | |
| | Production | Stocks May 1, 2001 | Percent of production | Production | Stocks May 1, 2002 | May as percent of production |
| 1,000 cwt | | | | | | |
| California | 3,741 | 800 | 21 | 1,113 | 110 | 10 |
| Colorado | 27,972 | 7,400 | 26 | 21,357 | 5,100 | 24 |
| Idaho | 152,320 | 47,000 | 31 | 127,980 | 40,500 | 32 |
| Maine | 17,920 | 4,000 | 22 | 16,120 | 3,000 | 19 |
| Michigan | 14,963 | 700 | 5 | 14,030 | 400 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 21,240 | 5,800 | 27 | 18,425 | 4,300 | 23 |
| Montana | 3,503 | 750 | 21 | 3,040 | 700 | 23 |
| Nebraska ^{2/} | 10,127 | | | 8,512 | | |
| New York ^{2/} | 5,964 | | | 5,942 | | |
| North Dakota | 26,950 | 6,800 | 25 | 26,400 | 7,600 | 29 |
| Ohio ^{2/} | 1,134 | | | 984 | | |
| Oregon | 30,683 | 10,000 | 33 | 20,730 | 6,500 | 31 |
| Pennsylvania ^{2/} | 3,510 | | | 3,173 | | |
| Washington | 105,000 | 21,500 | 20 | 94,400 | 18,000 | 19 |
| Wisconsin | 33,800 | 3,300 | 10 | 31,955 | 4,000 | 13 |
| Other States | | 1,110 | | | 930 | |
| Total 15 States | 458,827 | 109,160 | 24 | 394,161 | 91,140 | 23 |

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2002 potatoes; 2001 crop seed usage total 27.4 million cwt. ^{2/} Nebraska, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania combined into "Other States".